

NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 1 NO. 19

MAY 13, 1987



HSNA banner during the coin show.

QUEEN KAPIOLANI HOTEL AND THE HSNA

By M. F. KENDRICK

The Queen Kapiolani Hotel is home once more for the Hawaii State Numismatic Association Coin Show. I did not realize that this is our *tenth* consecutive year and the struggle it took to build the coin show into a known and reputable one in Hawaii and on the mainland.

The Queen Kapiolani Hotel is on the corner of Kapiolani Avenue and Lemon Road, across from Kapiolani Park. Better known to the locals as the "Zoo" area of the Park, the hotel is two short blocks from Waikiki Beach. It was named after the wife of the last reigning King of the Hawaiian Islands, King David Kalakaua, and it was built in 1968/69. One of our members, Wayne Yakuma, had a hand in building the Hotel. He shared with me some interesting stories of the construction of the Hotel.

Many of the dealers, collectors and members have asked me why don't we move to another hotel with a larger banquet hall which would hold more dealers. My answer is because of the terrific "service and support" that we have gotten from Queen Kapiolani Hotel and staff. We have received outstanding assistance from the staff, especially in the Catering Department.

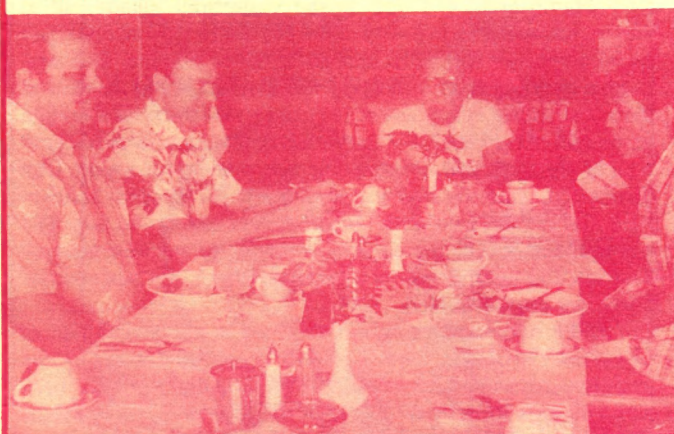
I would like to share with you a letter (that I still have) which was from the Food and Beverage Director, dated November 7, 1978, and it reads: "The Catering Staff of the Queen Kapiolani Restaurant and I wish to thank you for giving us the opportunity of being of service at your recent Coin Show held in the Akala Room on the week of November 2nd through 5th, 1978. We certainly hope that we lived up to your expectations and provided you with the best of service and hospitality. Queen Kapiolani appreciates your patronage and looks forward to having you with us on other occasions in the future. Please

accept my kind personal regards, Mahalo and much Aloha", signed by Mrs. May Nagata.

At the time I received the letter, I dismissed it as being the standard "form" letter; however, in my association with the Hotel for the past ten years, they, the Catering Staff, have exceeded all expectations. The assistance I have received from May Nagata and Haru Hayashikawa in dealing with the Hotel, in making our show a success, has been outstanding. If I may, I would like to say something about these two wonderful hardworking individuals. They have been in the hotel industry over thirty years and have worked their way up through the ranks, so to speak.

The old Halekulani Hotel gave them their start. From there, they moved to the Kaimana Beach Hotel and finally to the Queen Kapiolani. The reason that was given to me as to why the moves—they were tired of doing the same things and wanted a change. I believe the real reason they wanted to move to a larger hotel was because it offered new ventures. They are both fluent in the Japanese language which is a tremendous asset because of the many Japanese tourists in Waikiki. I'm sure that many of you have eaten at the Kapiolani Hotel and have enjoyed their great meals and entertainment.

Yes, I must say that we have come a long way from the first 45 dealers to the present big show of 70 dealers; in addition, a sellout for the past two years. This year we'll begin our 24th Annual Coin Show. We would like to thank Queen Kapiolani Hotel for helping us grow and making our show a real success. Mahalo and Aloha!



HSNA meeting at the Queen Kapiolani

HONOLULU COIN CLUB

The Honolulu Coin Club meets every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street, 7:30 p.m. Gregory Hunt, president.

Talking Story

BY IRVING KAM



Lately, there's a certain puzzling nostalgia-like feeling which overcomes me when I'm walking around downtown Honolulu. Especially during those off-hours when there aren't that many bodies vying for unoccupied walking spaces on the cement sidewalks. Quite the opposite from just a few years ago. Architecture belonging to an earlier period in the development of our island state, coupled with the vintage store fixtures and accouterment, all put me in the mood for an afternoon at the Hawaiian Island Stamp and Coin and a talk with Don Medcalf.

Island history continues from the street on into the shop where one is immediately immersed in, but not limited to, Hawaiian memorabilia. A poi board, books long out of print, various stone implements, paintings, stamps and coins, postcards, tokens, and much more. Documents bearing the signatures of the Royal Monarchs is of particular interest and a large selection is on hand. Don's involvement in Hawaiiana started simply because he was living here and it has developed into what is now part of his livelihood. The ease in which he reaches back to speak of Hawaii's past and the variety of the store's stock all make for a pleasurable and educationally worthwhile visit.

The early years in the hobby were spent by Don at age five or six sorting through the "piles of coins" that his father, the well-known Gordon Medcalf, brought home. World coins, U.S. types, or anything that was strange or odd looking appealed to him at that time. He later worked in his Dad's shop on Saturdays or any days where there was no school, thereby gaining more and more valuable numismatic as well as philatelic experience.

After moving to Hawaii in 1961 from the State of Washington, he kept close to the hobby, rarely straying from his growth pattern while adding Hawaiiana to his list of interests. By 1970, he was working full-time with his father which included behind the counter experience at the Island Coin Exchange in the Al Moana Shopping Center. Three years later, Don celebrated the grand opening of his own venture called the Nani Stamp and Coin, Ltd. in the Waterfront Village out at Hawaii Kai. Dealing in pretty much the same type of materials as he does now with U.S. and world coins, stamps, and antiquities of old Hawaii supplying the staples of life. A second store was added downtown in 1979 to service the brisk clientele at the hub of Honolulu. But operating both outlets later became a bit of a burden and with the coin boom going full swing, Don decided to close the doors of the Hawaii Kai shop to concentrate and remain where the action is. And remain he has. Still holding tenancy at its original location in the International Savings and Loan Building on Bishop Street, it's business as usual, six days a week.

While rummaging through some of Don's files, a pair of newspaper clippings from Coin World revealed some of his inventory advertised for sale at the time. Dated April 23, 1975 with offerings for a Royal Order of the Star of Oceania Medal (Ka Hoku O Osiania), and another from the Royal Order of Kalakaua I, and still another from the Royal Order of Kapiolani. Much more is listed including various military, dairy, amusement, commercial or saloon tokens and even several Hawaiian Palace swords. In the other clipping from the August 21, 1975 issue of Coin World, Nani Stamp and Coin was seeking buyers for a Ryan and Dement Honolulu Saloon Token, 27th Infantry

Exchange, Oahu, T.H. 5 cents Military Token, Aala Park Arcade Amusement Token, Royal signatures, a King Kalakaua I Jubilee Medal, some Palace stationery, Royal Hawaiian Buttons and Lahainaluna paper money. Also listed for placement was a superb gem Kalakaua coinage of 1883 silver proof set with a heading which read, "Of Particular Importance is the Pattern (eighth dollar) of Which No Regular Business Strikes Were Made, Thus the Original 20 Coins Minted Makes this Coin one of the World's Rarities." Very heavy stuff to say the least.

In 1978, Don, along with co-author Ronald Russell, released their wonderful publication entitled the "Hawaiian Money Standard Catalog". Aided by many learned collectors and dealers of whom Don is appreciative, this effort has become the bible on the subject and a must reference for the bookshelf. The catalog came about as a result of much time researching, handling collections, taking notes from his father, and seemingly endless frustration. Every time the press was set to go, more issues were being uncovered that had to be included. Each year tons of new stuff is being produced and that is a major obstacle Don has to contend with. Yet, taking the number of so-called "unlisted" material, subtracting the "unlisted but recorded" material and the length of time since its publication, it will always add up to an important source of information for all. Incidentally, Don has set the gears in motion for a newly revised edition of the "Blue Book" but the date of completion is as yet unclear. Updating, deleting, adding, and correcting typographical errors to clear up questions will only make this already good book better.

Don's knowledge of vintage Hawaii is extensive and frequently reflects the tremendous research time he's logged in. Be it at the Archives, Bishop Museum, or viewing a collection, he is always xeroxing copies, taking notes and making rubbings. He has accumulated filing cabinets filled with folders upon folders on basically anything Hawaiian. When asked about his spare or free time, he's quick to admit he likes to go to the beach and all that other stuff but he literally breathes, eats, and sleeps Hawaiiana. Always on the search for new material, additional stock, anything not yet listed, or more researching.

Before closing, I should add, too, that Don is equally well versed on coins or stamps as well as things Hawaiian. I guess I leaned too much to one side in the preparation of this article, but a visit to his shop should clear up my obvious oversight. I would also like to thank Don for the assistance he has obligingly afforded me over the years on general Hawaiian information, unlisted tokens, pricing, or questionable gold. He has always had time for me, including the writing of this installment of "Talking Story" for which I will always be grateful.

Thanks, Don! Mahalo Plenty.

Aloha! Pau.

Kicking the can again with nothing to do? Bring a friend and join a Coin Club! You may discover new things and good fortune in your life!





GOLD FEVER

GOLD TRIVIA QUIZ

How much do you know about gold? There's a lot of interesting history in precious metals such as gold. Let's test your knowledge about gold—here are six true or false questions for your testing:

- (1) White gold is silver-colored gold in its original state.
- (2) The first gold was discovered in California on the roots of wild onions.
- (3) A pound of gold weighs the same as a pound of salt.
- (4) Gold in its pure state is unfit for commercial use.
- (5) The world's largest gold nugget was found in Alaska and weighed 128 pounds.
- (6) During the Medieval period, scientists practiced Alchemy, a chief aim to turn base metals into gold.

SOLUTION TO THE GOLD QUIZ

- (1) False. White gold is yellow gold with a 25 percent alloy of platinum, zinc, or nickel.
- (2) True. In 1841, two ranchers in the San Fernando Valley pulled up some wild onions for a noonday meals, discovering grains of gold on the roots of the plants.
- (3) False. Gold is weighed by troy weight which has 12 ounces to the pound.
- (4) True. In pure state, it is so soft that it will not hold its shape for long. To make it harder, other durable metals are added such as silver or copper.
- (5) False. The largest nugget was found in Victoria, Australia, and weighed 183 pounds.
- (6) True. But they were never successful in their ventures. Gold cannot be manufactured.



THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB. TRIVIA ANSWERS


Answers to the trivia contest of the *Nu Hou Dala Paa* Newsletter, last November issue (No. 18):

(1) Susan B. Anthony; (2) HSNA; (3) Hawaiian Quarter; (4) John T. Waterhouse token; (5) SSBN Kamehameha; (6) Chicago World's Fair, 1933; (7) Dahlonaga Mint; (8) the name "Stella" (meaning Star) was suggested as being analogous to the "eagle" as a coin name, both the star and the eagle being national emblems; (9) Victor D. Brenner; (10) Continental Dollar; (11) the U.S. adopted 1 cent from the Latin word

"centum", meaning hundred as a unit of its coinage, it created the forerunner of all the cents, centavos, centimes, and centimos as used by all nations today; (12) Treasury Notes printed from 1869 to 1880s with an eagle centered on the obverse. When the note was turned upside down, the eagle resembled a Jackass that gave the note its name; (13) Wisconsin, commemorative U.S. Half Dollar; (14) Moorish Idol (Ki-hi-ki-hi), Trigger Fish (Humu-humu-nuku-nuku-a-puaa), Lion Fish (Nohu Pinao), Long Nose Butterfly (Lau-wiliwili-nuku-nuku-'oi'oi), Silver Perch (Aholehole), Lyretail Wrasse (Hina-lea), Damsel Fish (Kupipi), Squirrelfish ('Ala'ih), Parrot Fish (Uhu); (15) 20th Anniversary of Hawaii's Statehood; (16) 48 stars; (17) on the reverse of Daniel Boone's U.S. Commemorative Half Dollar; (18) U.S. three cent coin; (19) Theodore Roosevelt; (20) U.S. two cent coin.

Winners of the contest: Francis Loo and W.K. Young.

HONOLULU COIN CLUB
STATEHOOD
COIN SHOW
ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL
(VON HOLT ROOM NEXT TO WASHINGTON PLACE)
AUGUST 22, 1987 SATURDAY
9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
FREE PARKING



FREE
ADMISSION
COIN
DEALERS
DOOR
PRIZES



COIN QUESTIONS

BY F. LOO

Send your questions to: Coin Collector

P.O. Box 61177 Honolulu, HI 96839-1177

Q. In one of the national coin newspapers, there were ads offering to buy coins graded by the American Numismatic Association Certification Service (ANACS). However, they offered to buy at different prices depending on the date of the certificate. Why does it matter when the coins were graded? Now, there are other grading services. Is one better than the other? What advice can you give to me about grading certificates or grading services?

(D.I.—Kahala)

A. Your questions concern one of the most difficult subjects in numismatics. Yet, the best advice which will answer all your questions is probably the most simple: namely: **LEARN TO DO YOUR OWN GRADING**. Then you can ignore all the grading certificates and services for all time.

If you respond to my advice by saying that you don't have the time to learn how to grade, then I will give you one more bit of advice: Go find another hobby. If you collect coins only for investment, then invest in something else, like pork-belly futures or counterfeit baseball cards.

However, if you are willing to learn how to grade, then I'll share a secret with you. You really should learn how to price a coin, especially in any series you're interested in. If you know what the fair price is for any coin, then you really don't need to know how to grade it.

By now you may be confused. Let me clarify by giving an example. You are at a coin show and you find four different examples of a coin you want being offered by different dealers:

Dealer A's coin has an ANACS certificate with an MS62/64 grade price at \$95. Dealer B's coin has an NCI certificate with an MS69.99 grade priced at \$8,500. Dealer C's coin is in a PCGS holder with an MS-61 grade priced at \$250. And Dealer D's coin has no grade indicated, but is better looking than Dealer A's or C's, but not as nice as Dealer B's coin, and is priced at \$65. Without knowing how to grade, which coin should you select? If you are unable to answer, then you should try some other hobby instead of coin collecting.

In the example given above, you, as a potential buyer could probably make a very intelligent choice without knowing how to grade, because you had compared the coins which are available and their respective prices.

You then could select what was the best value to you for the money you are willing to spend. You could not make a wise decision if you only depended upon the various certified grades which are indicated. Therefore, I will repeat, "If you know what the fair price is for any coin, then you really don't need to know how to grade it."

At a coin show you may see dealers selling to each other. The buying dealer seldom asks the selling dealer to grade a coin. The main question is "How much?" If the price is right, then the buying dealer does not need to have a grade on the coin being bought. You see, the buying dealer does his own grading. (See my simple advice at the beginning.)

If you pay a fair price for a coin that is visually satisfac-

tory to you, then you really don't need to know the exact grade of the coin. In the example of coins being sold by four dealers given above, there is a coin grade MS69.99 for a price of \$8,500. If the grading was exactly accurate, was the price fair? On the other hand, the ungraded coin priced for \$65 might be more fairly priced even if the grading was not indicated.

Let me attempt to explain the difference between grading and pricing. New collectors or novice investors think that if the grade of a coin is known, then they can determine the price of the coin by referring to printed price lists, catalogs or auction results. However, for any coin, a given grade is only an **OPINION**, while the price for the same coin is a **FACT**. You cannot have a fact based on an opinion. Put another way, you cannot judge the fairness of a factual coin price by an opinion of the coin's grade. If you compare printed values given for the same date and grade of any coin, you will find that price lists, catalogs and auction results rarely agree. This is why experienced collectors depend upon their knowledge of a coin's supply and demand to determine the fair value of any coin, and refer to price lists and catalogs only as a guide and not as a bible.

The real reason for the recent emphasis on grading certificates is the unfair pricing of many coins sold to ignorant novice investors. In the past, these investors would buy a coin with a written grade of MS-65, say for \$100. Actually, at that time, the coin was probably a common date, which was probably worth only \$20. In the meantime, the printed value for the MS-65 coin would go from \$100 to \$500. Then the investor tries to sell the coin and finds it is not MS-65, and is worth only \$25. Was the coin over-graded or over-priced when it was sold as an MS-65 for \$100? The truth is that it was simply over-priced, regardless of what the actual grade was.

Now, the investor wants a grading certificate to assure himself that when a coin is bought at a stated grade, it's sold at the same grade. So now a certificated coin graded MS-63 will be sold for \$200 to an investor, while it probably is worth only \$50 to a collector. Then when the investor goes to sell the coin, it will be bought as an MS-63, but probably for only \$100. You see, even though the coin is accurately graded at both the time of purchase and at the time of sale, it will not help the investor if it was overpriced when he bought it.

From my collector's point of view, grading certificates are only needed by insecure investors. The knowledgeable and experienced collector (and actually most dealers) will do his or her own grading and pricing. Dealers who cater to investors claim to want to buy certificated graded coins to give a sense of security to their "clientele." Unfortunately, grading certificates are often used as a marketing device to sell overpriced coins to people who don't know any better.

The cost to get a certified grade runs about \$20-\$25, not including any postage, insurance and handling. If a coin worth \$50 is "certified", then it must be sold for \$75 for the seller to recover all costs. Is it worth paying 50% more for a coin to be assured of the grade? On the other hand, if the coin is worth \$500, you would probably say that it is worth paying \$525 to get some assurance of the coin's proper value. However, if you need some kind of assurance of a coin's value before you spend \$500 +, then it is questionable whether you should be buying such a high-priced item.

Continued on page 5

COIN QUESTION

Continued from page 4

The higher cost of any item should be supported by a proportionately high degree of knowledge by the buyer, and not by a certified opinion of someone else, or on past "price increases".

The fact that the validity or acceptance of ANACS grading certificates varies with their date illustrates the folly of depending upon such certificates at any time. There are three factors which have affected the timing of grading certificates:

(1) Market conditions. When grading certificates were first introduced, the price spread between MS-60 and MS-65 grades was relatively small, say \$10 for MS-60 versus \$25 for MS-65 for the same dated coins. Investors buying coins at that time weren't taking too much of a risk paying \$25 for a coin marked as MS-65. Now, when the spread is \$25 for MS-60 and supposedly \$500 for MS-65 for the same date, there appears to be a need for more accuracy in grading because the value differences are greater.

(2) Grading system. I remember when coins were graded simply as Good, VG, F, VF, EF, AU, Unc and BU. Then came a non-logical system using G 4-6, VG 8-10, through AU 50-55, MS60, MS65 and MS70! Now, for the last three grades alone, ANACS has adopted MS60/60 through MS70/70 with a possibility of over 100 grades in-between, from MS60/61, MS60/62 through MS68/70 and MS69/70. Everytime a grading system is changed, all grades certified under the old system become virtually useless because of doubt about how the same coin would be graded under the new system. However, regardless of how the same coin may be graded under any grading system, the value will remain the same to a knowledgeable collector.

Squeaky wheel. You've heard the saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the oil." What has happened in the CO(i)N industry (not coin hobby) is the noise made by investors or promoters when their respective interests were must affected.

Again, going back to the beginning of grading certificates, which came about because coin investors were crying about being sold over-graded (or whizzed) coins, coin promoters were anxious to get certified grades for their coins to sell to nervous investors. As a result, huge quantities were submitted to ANACS which was not prepared for such volume. Then, due to a combination of high volume and graders' inexperience, grading which was certified at that time was "loose." There is also some claim that favoritism affected grading at that time. Now, because coin investors are crying that they bought coins which had "loose" grading, grading by ANACS has become "strict." Soon promoters will find that it's difficult to sell "strictly" graded coins at the high levels they used to get for loosely graded MS-65s. Then grading may get "loose" again. Thus, the squeaky wheel theory.

And now there is PCGS, NCI, and whatever other alphabet soup, the final answers to grading problems. My assessment of all these new grading "services" can be summarized in two (2) letters which are best not printed

here. I will say that I prefer to collect coins, and not a handful of expensive plastic.

If you've read this far, I want to congratulate you for your patience and perseverance. You must be tired from reading this far, and I am tired from writing so much. So, let's switch. Send me a note telling me about your thoughts, agreements or disagreements, or any other questions. I'll try to acknowledge your comments in this column.

NEXT ISSUE: What are the benefits of coin collecting? And, hopefully, some comments from you, the reader.



Puffer Fish last wooden token Hawaiian Fish Series

The 10th and final of the Hawaiian Series of Fishes of wooden tokens is the white-spotted Puffer Fish. Known as the 'Opu Hue in Hawaii, it is sometimes called the "Balloon Fish", because it can inflate itself large enough so it cannot be eaten by its enemy. Found commonly in the Hawaiian waters, there are many various types of puffers in color, size and shapes. The puffer fish contains deadly poisonous toxin that can kill quickly if eaten when it is not prepared properly.

To order your wooden tokens, send 25¢ per token and a SASE to:

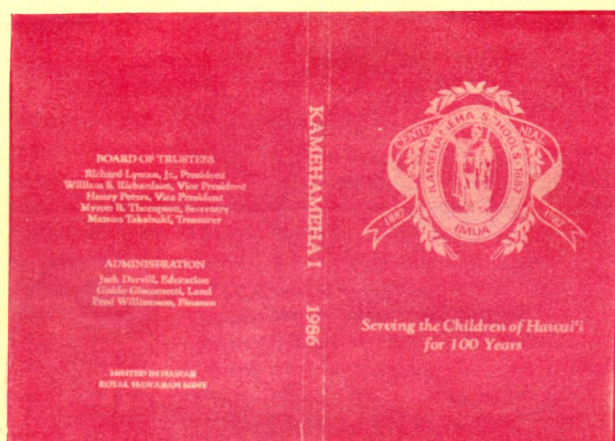
Honolulu Coin Club
P.O. Box 6063
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818



A TOUCH OF HAWAIIANA

KAMEHAMEHA MEDAL

BY GARY LAU



Hope the New Year is treating all of you well. The token topic for this issue is on a set of three commemorative coins being minted in Hawaii by Bernard Von NotHaus at the Royal Hawaiian Mint. I'm writing about the first of the three medals, commemorating the centennial of the Kamehameha Schools/Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate. The obverse bears the likeness of Kamehameha I, with the school motto, "IMUA", meaning "FORWARD", below his name. On the reverse side of the coin are the words "E 'oni wale no 'oukou i ku'u pono", which translated means "Endless is the good that I have given you to enjoy". It was Kamehameha's last words that he shared with his closest chiefs just before he died in 1819. There is also a map of the 8 major Hawaiian Islands, and the words "UNIFICATION" and "KA NA'I AUPUNI", or "CONQUEROR OF THE KINGDOM".

Kamehameha I is acclaimed to be the greatest warrior/statesman in the history of Hawaii. He brought peaceful rule to the Hawaiian archipelago. At the time of his birth at Kokoiki in North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii, there were said to be violent storms and the presence of a very bright heavenly body which dominated the sky for a number of nights. It is said that the position of Halley's Comet over Hawaii in late 1758 is linked to the time of his birth.

He ruled over the Hawaiian Kingdom until 1819, after which two sons and two grandsons succeeded him as rulers of our islands.

Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a great-granddaughter and last direct descendant of Kamehameha left her entire estate, which consisted largely of Kamehameha lands, which he founded and later maintained as Kamehameha Schools. Made in three different metals: gold, silver and bronze, each coin comes with a certificate of authenticity. It's a nice medal and if the next two coins are as nice as these, there will three great medal sets to keep and pass on to future generations.

Coin Club Newsletter

NU HOU DALA PAA

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

VOL. 1 NO. 1

APRIL 8, 1981

1981 WOODEN TOKEN HONORS KAM III & PEARL HARBOR



The Honolulu Coin Club is honoring King Kamehameha III in it's fifth issue with a wooden token.

Kamehameha III was the ruler of the Hawaiian Islands from 1824-1854 and is the son of Kamehameha the Great. Kamehameha III reign to the throne for thirty years, longest in the history of Hawaii. He was the great Mahele dividing the land with the people receiving their share.

On the reverse side of the token, we are commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The token will be sold for 25c at the Honolulu Coin Club Show on August 22nd. It will also be available after the show at 25c plus SASE by submitting your payment and request to the Honolulu Coin Club, P. O. Box 6063, Honolulu, HI 96818.

Join a Coin Club!
Coin collecting
can be fun!

HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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JAPAN'S FAMOUS WOODCARVING ARTIST JOINS CLUB

Ikkoku Tanaka, a wood carver from Japan, joined the Honolulu Coin Club recently. He is a master artist in his work and is commissioned by the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese government to do many of the art work in his country. He is noted for his realistic and intricate work which has made him world renowned.

The members of the Club have voted Mr. Tanaka as an honorary life member. We also appreciate his generous donations to the Club.

The Honolulu Coin Club and the Hawaii State Numismatic Association newsletter is entering it's 6th year in publications. We will like to hear comments from our readers

Collecting Hawaii's Past In Sports

BY GREGORY HUNT



People of Hawaii are known to be very sports minded. In my early childhood, I can remember listening to the radio broadcasts of the San Francisco Forty-Niners Football as well as the Brooklyn Dodgers. Locally, we attended the ILH football games between St. Louis, Roosevelt, Kamehameha, Farrington, McKinley, Kaimuki, Punahou, and Iolani. We followed the major sports through each season with our favorite teams. From football to basketball and baseball and so on. Our family enjoyed many sports moments together from seeing Elroy "Crazy Legs" Hirsch to Howard "Hopalong" Cassidy in the Hula Bowl to seeing Willie Mays hit a homer in the Honolulu Stadium in exhibition.

Our family also participated in many sporting events. We loved the ocean so it was natural that we all swam for fun and exercise. We all learned how to ride the waves on home-made boogie boards and progressed to the "big gun" surfboards. But the sport that brought our family the most pride and joy was that of CANOE RACING.

It all started for our family in the late fifties. We were all living on the Island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. There were ten people in our family and most of the six other siblings were young adults out of the house, on their own. At home at the time was mother, dad, aunty, older brother, young sister and me. I always idolized my older brothers because they were so good in sports. My oldest brother played with ILH three time champions, Roosevelt, in 1956. Now my next older brother who was 13 was starting out in a new sport after four years of a successful baseball career in which he was an all-star baseman and league pennant winner twice. My father took the whole family out to Honolulu Harbor, Pier 9. It was some mysterious holiday called Maritime Day. There were thousands of people in the area, some wearing same colored shirts. They read Healani, Outrigger, Hui Nalu, Waikiki Surf, and Kaioni. As we stood on the pier, my brother disappeared down a ladder and paddled off to the starting line in a koa canoe with blue markings called PAPALOA. The other clubs lined up next to them and the officials in a motorboat raced out after them and started the race.

The people on the pier began yelling to their respective canoe paddlers to win. Both my parents and the rest of the family could see my brother and they were ahead of the other canoes. We began to cheer louder and finally it was all over. In his very first race, he was a winner. I was so proud of him when we went up to the judge's stand to receive his first gold medal. He told me that I would be able to learn how to paddle soon. So it began—our family's love affair with winning and canoe racing. My brother's career spanned almost 15 years and mine about 11. It all ended in the Molokai Channel Race of 1969 when my brother got hurt and almost died during a changing of paddlers. Somehow he had jumped from the escort boat to a

pier in tow and it hit him in the chest and he disappeared from sight until it was realized the change never took place. On board the escort boat was HFD Fire Captain, Clement Paiana, and son and they made free dives into the water to locate him. They found him unconscious in 10 fathoms. He was brought out and revived and airlifted to Kaiser Hospital. This was our last race. During those glory years, our club, Healani, was State Champion over seven times and we won many medals in gold, silver and bronze.

During the years that followed, we forgot about the canoe club races but realized how beautiful the medals were that we had won. We were not aware of their uniqueness in Hawaiian History 'till one day while reminiscing about past accomplishments, we started to talk about each other's athletic prowess. One thing led to another and the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association medals were all brought out to look over. There were so many that it was hard to tell who won what.

I had over 200 medals in my collection. They came in all shapes, sizes, thicknesses and were gold, silver or bronze. The latter was to indicate first, second and third place finishes during canoe racing regattas. I became intrigued by their beauty and unique connection with Hawaii's past and started to do a lot of reading about the Hawaiian Canoe and Canoes as a mode of travel. I got hung up on the Hokulea and Herb Kane's idea of the migration of the Polynesians. To make a long story short, I began to collect as many other canoe racing medals as I could find.

In short, since that time over 10 years ago, I have collected over 200 more medals. These medals span from 1903 to present, from the hey days of Healani to Myrtle Rowing Clubs, to the present Hui Waa Canoe and Surfing Association and the High School Na Opio Racing Association. Most of these medals are rare and very hard to come by. The early 1900s to 1950s are of premium value and some cost as much as \$250.00. Also of premium price are long distance racing medals such as the Aloha Week Molokai Channel Race. Common racing medals of the seventies and early eighties can be had for as little as \$5 to \$10.00 from the few that will part with these exotic pieces of Hawaiiana. There is a wealth of history behind each and every medal. To the future Canoe Racing Medal collectors, start now and good luck!

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